

repeatedly Minister, and even Chief Minister to the changing dynasties, in reply to some sneers from De Tocqueville, he nobly defended the brilliant band of men who under Napoleon undertook the task of establishing order, repressing crime and folly, and repairing the evils alike of the *ancien regime* and of the Revolution, believing themselves engaged in a holy and generous crusade. His words should be read. He at least did not believe that he had spent so many years in the service of a clever and unscrupulous adventurer. A Frenchman, he did not forget in his old age what Napoleon had done for France. As once more the wild theories and dreams of the sanguinary Revolutionists were urged on an excited people he remembered the great soldier and statesman who had put the whole noisy band under his heel, and had given France what so few rulers have given her,—internal peace.

Lavallette, who had for so many years directed the Posts, naturally retook his former office. On the second Restoration he was one of those exempted from the amnesty. Condemned to death, the loyalists were very anxious for his execution. According to them he had walked into the office, struck his stick on the floor — a great point was made of this stick—and taken possession in the name of the Emperor. It is difficult to see the peculiar wickedness of this; one is rather struck with the extraordinary weakness of an administration which could be thus at once upset. The King received Madame de Lavallette, for what reason it is hard to say, if he had determined on the death of her husband. The Duchesse d'Angoulême was inaccessible and inexorable. "How Lavallette escaped should be read at length in his Memoirs. It is impossible here to do justice to the nerve of his wife and himself, especially when, expecting death at any moment, he delayed the enterprise for a day to improve the arrangements. Putting on the dress of his wife, he got past the gate into a sedan chair, thence from that to a *fiacre*, and, slipping out of that, was concealed by the family of a minor functionary in the hotel of the Due de Richelieu, the very head of the administration. Though his place of hiding was known to several people, it was preserved from the constant